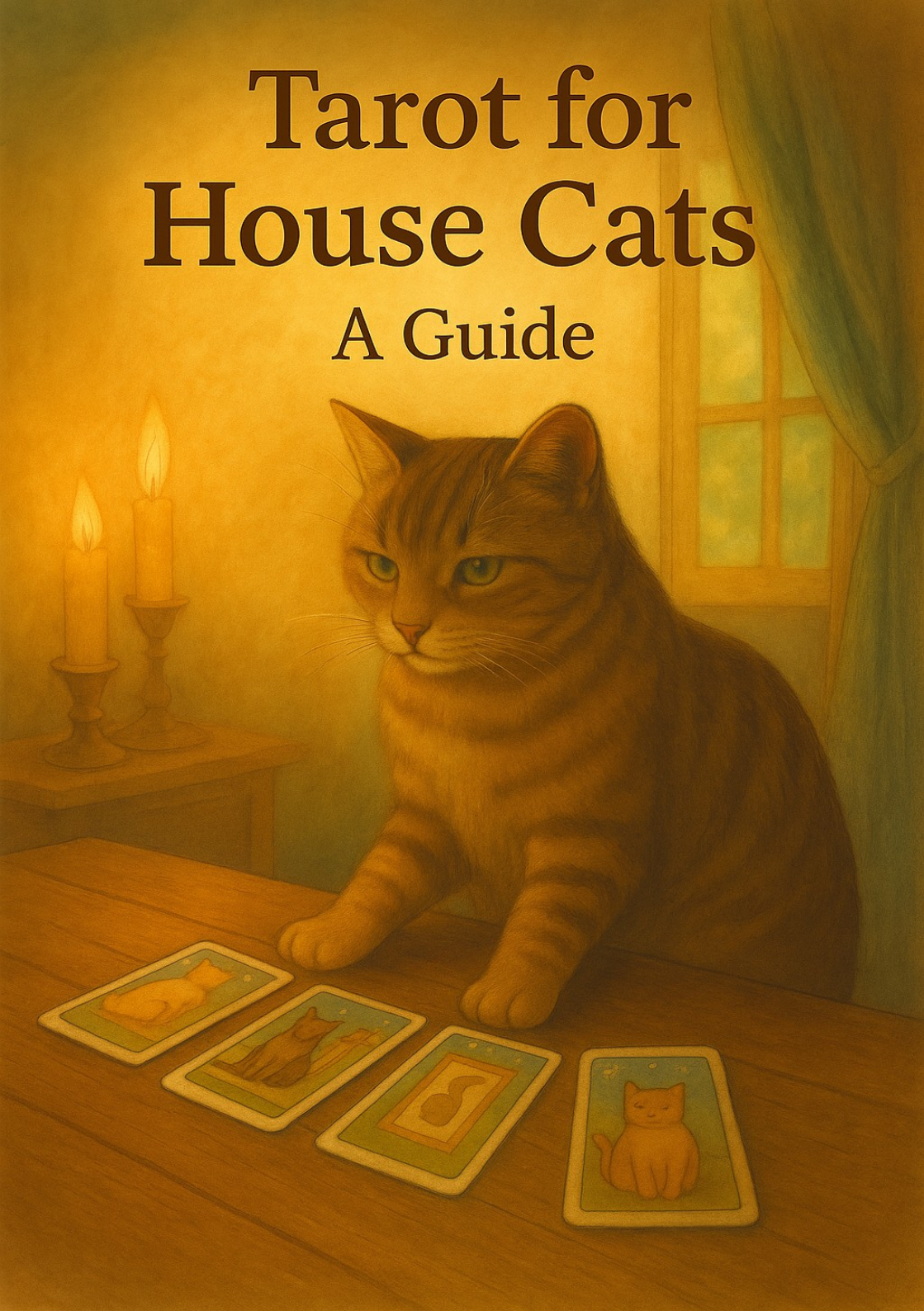
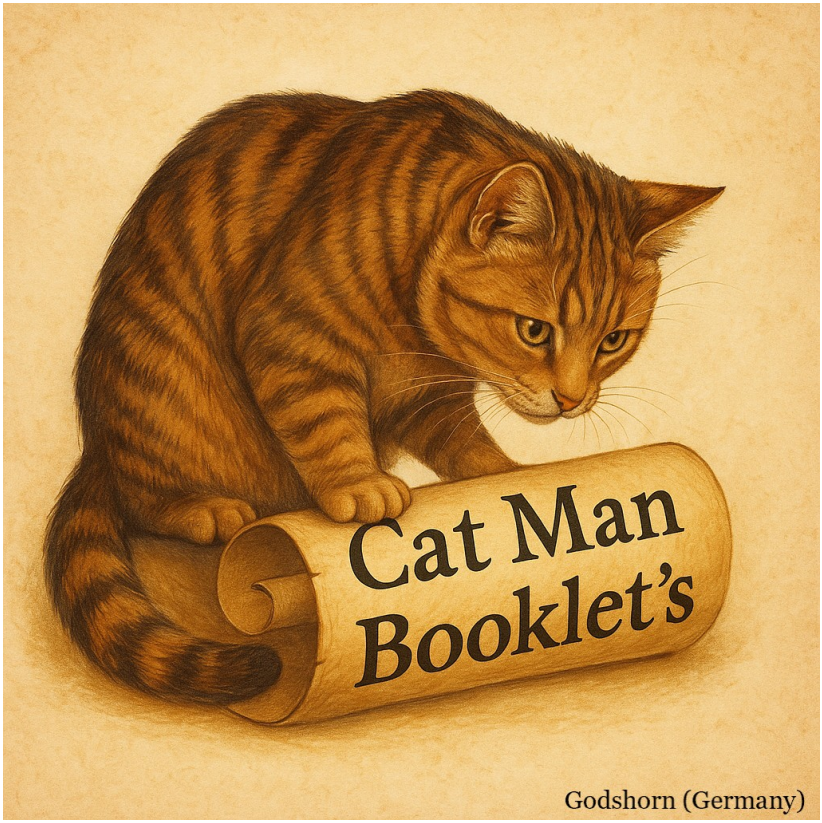
Tarot for House Cats

A Guide



Tarot for House Cats

A Guide



FOLLI

Introduction
The Cat as a Symbolic Figure and the Language of Tarot

Tarot consists of seventy-eight archetypal cards that originally had nothing to do with fortune-telling. Only in the nineteenth century did it shift from a card game to a tool for self-reflection. Today, it is used in many areas of life – including the relationship between humans and their cats.

The idea of what is often called Feline Tarot goes beyond a simple themed deck. It connects the age-old reverence for the cat with modern forms of spiritual interpretation. The cat is seen as a companion, a guardian, and a quiet observer. Her behavior, her retreats, and her sudden impulses often mirror inner states. This is where Feline Tarot begins: it translates the symbols of the classic deck into the world of the domestic cat.

The focus is not on predicting the future but on understanding – the subtle harmony between animal and human. Each card helps illuminate the behavior, needs, and moods of the cat. In this way, tarot becomes a tool of empathy, encouraging people to recognize the “divine feline wisdom” that hides in daily life, in play, and in silence.

SACERDOSSA

Chapter 1
From Card Game to Divination

The history of tarot stretches from a simple card game to a tool of interpretation and self-discovery. Its origins are still uncertain. Some researchers suggest early beginnings in India or Egypt, while others point to the first paper cards from China and Korea in the twelfth century. What is certain is that tarot became known in Europe in the fifteenth century, likely through Venice.

At that time, it was a popular game with four suits, fourteen cards in each suit, and a series of twenty-one trump cards plus the unique Fool. Only centuries later did these cards transform into an instrument of divination. In the nineteenth century, French occultists believed they had discovered hidden symbols within the deck and saw in them a key to spiritual and metaphysical knowledge.

The most influential step came from Eliphas Levi. In his 1861 work *Dogma et Rituel de la haute magie*, he described tarot as a gateway to higher wisdom. With this shift, a simple card game became a system of mystical meaning that soon gained followers throughout Europe.

Without this reinterpretation of the nineteenth century, Feline Tarot would not exist today. Only the esoteric depth added to the cards made it possible to transfer their structure to other areas of life. The modern feline version follows the same framework but applies it to the behavior, moods, and inner impulses of a domestic cat.

Tarot consists of seventy-eight cards. Twenty-two form the Major Arcana, fifty-six the Minor Arcana. The Major Arcana includes the trump cards from The Fool to The World and represents the major themes of life – birth, insight, transformation, and completion. In Feline Tarot, these themes mirror a cat's own stages of development: curiosity, trust, retreat, and harmony.

The Minor Arcana reflects daily life.
Its four suits – Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles – correspond to the elements of fire, water, air, and earth.

Wands represent energy, will, and playfulness.
Cups express emotion and bonding.
Swords show alertness, boundaries, and stress.
Pentacles focus on security, the body, and material needs.

This connection to feline psychology makes Feline Tarot unique. It translates the ancient symbolic language of tarot into the everyday world in which cats live, play, rest, and communicate with us in their own quiet way.

IMPERATRIX

Chapter 2
The Cat as a Symbol and Mirror of Spirituality

The cat has accompanied humanity for thousands of years – as a hunter, a companion, and a mysterious being balanced between closeness and independence. In many cultures, she has been associated with magical abilities, intuition, and protection. In modern spirituality, she is often seen as a symbol of inner balance and quiet wisdom.

This mystical aura makes her an ideal mirror for tarot. Whenever humans seek clarity or direction, a cat's behavior often reveals what remains unspoken: retreat, tension, trust, or calm. Feline Tarot weaves this age-old observation together with the symbolic language of the cards.

The so-called *feline archetypes* translate traditional tarot images into everyday cat behavior. A card like The Fool no longer represents human naïveté but instead the moment a cat explores a new room with pure curiosity. The Empress becomes the warm sense of safety within a familiar home. The Hermit reflects the cat's need for solitude and self-sufficiency.

This connection has also found its way into modern pop culture. Cat-themed tarot decks are now created by many artists – from the humorous *Cats Rule the Earth Tarot* to the mystical and artistic *Mystic Cats Tarot*.

Some are playful, others deeply symbolic, but all celebrate the timeless fascination of the cat.

Whether collected as artwork, used as a tool for mindfulness, or viewed as a bridge between intuition and observation, Feline Tarot reminds us that spirituality does not need to be distant or abstract. It can begin in simple, everyday moments – in those quiet instances when a cat shows us what true serenity really is.

EREMITA

Chapter 3
The Major Arcana
Feline Archetypes and Life Cycles

The Major Arcana consists of 22 cards that reflect the essential stages of life – beginnings, insight, change, and completion. In Feline Tarot, these symbols are translated into the developmental journey of a domestic cat. They do not describe a human path but the inner cycles of curiosity, retreat, and contentment.

In traditional tarot, this journey is called the "Fool's Journey." Adapted to the world of cats, it reflects the physical and emotional phases of their lives: from fearless exploration to full integration into their home. Each card becomes a mirror of experience rather than a prediction.

The Fool (0) represents new beginnings, innocence, and the leap into the unknown. In the feline context, it embodies pure curiosity and playful instinct. It is the moment when a cat responds to a new room or a strange sound without hesitation – a small adventure taken without fear.

The High Priestess (II) symbolizes intuition and hidden knowledge. She corresponds to the cat who observes everything but reveals little. She knows every hiding spot, senses every shift in the environment, and acts quietly and purposefully when the right moment arrives.

The Empress (III) stands for abundance, comfort, and nurturing. For the housecat, she represents complete security – a soft bed, regular meals, gentle touches, and the feeling of ruling a familiar territory.

The Hermit (IX) reflects retreat and self-care. In feline terms, it is the essential time spent alone. It is the cat who withdraws into a quiet room to rest and disconnect from overstimulation.

Temperance (XIV) represents balance and harmony. For a cat, it manifests as a stable daily rhythm – eating, playing, and resting at the right times. When this card appears, it may signal that the routine is disrupted and the cat is trying to restore its inner balance.

The Tower (XVI) represents sudden change or upheaval. For a cat, this may be a move, the absence of a familiar person, or the arrival of another animal. This card shows a phase in which the feeling of safety is shaken and must be rebuilt.

The World (XXI) symbolizes fulfillment and inner peace. It is the cat who has found her place – in the home, in her territory, and within herself. A body stretched out and relaxed in a patch of sunlight expresses this state perfectly.

The Major Arcana reminds us that a cat's life is shaped by the same profound themes that shape ours – growth, trust, crisis, and healing. It reveals that spirituality is not limited to human introspection but can also be found in the quiet wisdom of an animal that meets life with calmness and grace.

FORTUNAE ROTA

Chapter 4
The Minor Arcana and the Four Dimensions of Feline Behavior

The Minor Arcana consists of fifty-six cards that describe everyday life. For Feline Tarot, they are especially important because they portray the small but decisive elements that shape a cat's world – food, play, rest, and emotional connection. Each card reflects a facet of the cat's behavior and inner dynamics.

The four suits of the Minor Arcana – Pentacles, Wands, Cups, and Swords – correspond to the elements earth, fire, water, and air. This makes it possible to link them directly to the core behavioral systems described in modern feline psychology: the reward-seeking system, the care system, and the play system.

Pentacles (Earth) symbolize everything material – safety, the body, ownership, and stability. They represent the need for protection, warmth, and a secure territory. A card such as the Ten of Pentacles reflects complete comfort: a safe home, familiar surroundings, and a cat who feels entirely protected.

Wands (Fire) embody energy, initiative, and playfulness. They express the hunting instinct and the desire for movement. The Ace of Wands stands for curiosity and zest for life – an invitation to encourage natural activity through new toys, new spaces to explore, or stimulating challenges for both mind and body.

Cups (Water) represent emotions, bonding, and harmony. They show the social dimension of the cat's world, especially her relationship with humans. A cat who licks, rubs, or curls up close expresses the energy of Cups. These cards remind us that emotional security is just as important as food or sleep.

Swords (Air) symbolize intellect, tension, and communication. They highlight moments shaped by alertness, boundaries, or conflict. A Sword card may point to stress, unease, or unmet needs, often recognizable through body language: flattened ears, a twitching tail tip, or over-grooming.

Examples from daily life illustrate how these cards work:

Eight of Pentacles – This card reflects focus, diligence, and dedication. In Feline Tarot, it shows a cat who is completely absorbed in practicing a skill: refining a climbing technique or establishing a new favorite spot.

Seven of Pentacles – Patience and perseverance. The card suggests a slow adjustment process, such as getting used to a new scratching post or changes in the household. It reminds us to give the cat time.

Three of Swords – Pain, emotional strain, or stress. For cats, this may indicate conflict, loss, or discomfort, often triggered by a new pet, a disrupted routine, or insecurity. Healing begins once the underlying cause is understood and respected.

Ace of Wands – Energy, inspiration, and new impulses. In daily life, this means supporting movement, curiosity, and safe exploration.

The court cards – Page, Knight, Queen, and King – represent typical personality patterns or emotional states.

The Page reflects learning and discovery, often seen in young or cautious cats.
The Knight shows energy, determination, or impatience.
The Queen expresses care, calmness, and emotional stability.
The King symbolizes maturity, confidence, and a secure sense of self – the cat who knows her place and no longer needs to prove anything.

Together, the Minor Arcana reveal how closely the four elements are intertwined with feline behavior. Each card becomes a mirror of instinct – and a reminder to humans to observe their cats with greater awareness and empathy.

MORS

Chapter 5
Practical Application – Spreads and Interpretation Strategies for Housecats

Feline Tarot is not a game in the traditional sense but a method of observation and intuition. It helps humans notice their cat's signals more consciously and deepen the shared bond. The animal's well-being is always the focus, never convenience or control. The goal is understanding, not prediction.

For every reading, one rule is essential: questions should focus on the cat's well-being, needs, and balance – never on forcing behavior or making life easier for humans. Tarot becomes meaningful when it encourages empathy.

Health and Safety (Pentacles)
Questions may include: "What can I do to support my cat's physical well-being?" or "How can I make her environment safer?"

Emotional Stability (Cups)
Here the focus is on bonding, trust, and closeness: "How can I strengthen my relationship with my cat?" or "What does she need to feel secure?"

Behavior and Motivation (Wands and Swords)
These questions explore energy and expression: "What energy shapes her day right now?" or "What lies behind her current behavior?"

Readings for cats should always remain simple. Well-known spreads can easily be adapted.

Three-Card Spread
This classic layout shows past, present, and future – or, in the feline version:
cause, current state, and the next supportive step.

Example:
Past – a missed play routine or old stress.
Present – the cat's emotional state: contentment or restlessness.
Future – the action needed to improve balance, such as more rest, new play impulses, or consistent rituals.

Territory and Resources Spread
This layout explores how safe and comfortable the cat feels in her home:
• The cat herself – her current mood or temperament
• Her perception of territory – security and hiding places
• Relationship with the human – closeness or distance
• Resources – food, sleeping areas, stability
• Hidden fears – noise, stress, disruptions, or territorial tension

A key part of interpretation is body language. It often confirms whether a card reflects the cat's present emotional tone.
A Sword card (conflict, stress) may show up as flattened ears, a twitching tail, or puffed fur.
A Cups card (affection, trust) appears in relaxed posture, an exposed belly, or gentle kneading.
Overexcitement or sudden defensiveness during petting is a natural boundary – a moment where tarot and observation work together.

Common card examples include:
Three of Swords – emotional strain or stress. The solution lies in rest, respect, and addressing the cause.
Eight of Pentacles – routine and steady effort. The cat is working on something, such as adjusting to a change or building trust.
Seven of Pentacles – patience. Progress takes time; nothing should be forced.
Ace of Wands – fresh energy and inspiration. Ideal for encouraging safe movement and play.

Feline Tarot is more than symbolism. It is a gentle language of mindfulness. Each card encourages humans to interpret their cat's signals with empathy and respect her needs. In this way, tarot becomes a form of spiritual partnership, where both cat and human reflect one another and grow together.

TEMPERANTIA

Chapter 6
Conclusion and Outlook

Feline Tarot is far more than a charming novelty or a fashionable accessory. It blends ancient symbolism with modern feline psychology and turns both into a tool for mindfulness. Each card helps deepen the relationship between humans and their cats by encouraging a clearer understanding of the animal's behavior and emotional world.

The Major Arcana highlights the great themes of life – trust, change, rest, and fulfillment. The Minor Arcana reveals the rhythms and habits of daily living: play, food, closeness, and territory. Together, they form a symbolic language that inspires humans to observe more carefully, understand body language, and respond to the cat's subtle needs.

The deeper purpose is not fortune-telling but understanding. The cards invite us to see the cat as an individual, sentient being. Those who observe closely also learn something about themselves – because every reaction, every moment of trust, every withdrawal reflects a part of our own energy.

Feline Tarot encourages an attitude of empathy and balance. It reminds us that spirituality does not need to be distant or abstract. It begins in daily life – in a quiet glance, a soft purr, or a moment of stillness shared between two beings who understand each other without words.

TURRIS

For your notes

For your notes